

TANEY COUNTY REPUBLICAN

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Taney County is Traversed by The Biggest Dammed River in The State of Missouri.

IMPROVEMENTS AND TAXATION.

We heard a man make a remark the other day to the effect that he did not intend to improve his place any because it would increase his taxes. Now this man is able to make good improvements on his farm, yet is willing to deprive his family of many of the comforts of life in order to save a little money each year. What do you suppose he is going to do with that money when the time comes for him to lay down his burden in this world and pass into the great beyond? He cannot take it with him and after he is gone it will do him no good. Money is valuable only in so far as it is used aright, and our belief is that a man is entitled to some of the comforts of this life while he is living, even if it reduces the size of his tomb stone after he is dead. When a man is once dead he is dead, and it doesn't make any difference to him whether his grave is marked by a plain little slab of stone or monument a mile high that weighs a million tons. He can't get out from under it in either case.

While it is true that taxes have been collected in this county for a great many years and the county has very little to show for them in the way of public improvements, we believe it to be equally true that if the money collected for taxes were used to build good roads and bridges, public buildings and things of that sort that there would be less kicking about the tax rate than there has been in the past. The greatest trouble in the past has been that the money collected for these purposes has been frittered away, a little here and a little there, and when it was all gone there was practically nothing to show for it. If any individual's or firm's business was managed in the same way it would be bankrupt in a mighty short time. But if we take this money and build good roads, even if it will only build a very small piece at a time, it would take but a very short time to show to the people that it was a business proposition and money in their pockets to do it. That has been the history of other counties and we see no difference between this and other counties in this or any other state. A start must be made somewhere, sometime, and the sooner it is made the sooner we will have something to show for the money paid out.

There is no other place in the country that we know of where the taxes are any lower than they are here, but there are no improvements being made. The Almighty has provided this county with an abundance of the very best of road making material and scattered it all over the county, so that there is scarcely a place that rock or gravel would have to be hauled over a quarter of a mile to put on the roads, and one good gravelled road through this county either from north to south or from east to west would mean thousands of dollars in the pockets of the people living adjacent to it. It would mean that they could get their farm produce to a market, it would mean that with the same team with which they are now hauling 22 or 23 bushels of corn at a load they could haul 40 to 50 bushels and not work the team or themselves as hard as they do now, and if they can haul twice as much stuff at one half the cost it is making money for them pretty fast. Think this over and let us hear from you on the subject.

A Letter from Our Representative.

Jefferson City, March 9th, 1913.
Editor Republican:

Thinking that the readers of your paper might want to hear some things that were happening in the capitol I take this opportunity of writing a few items that may be of interest to them. There have been some very important measures before the house this week, among them the joint and concurrent

resolution to raise the pay of the members of the legislature to \$1,000 a year. Your unworthy servant voted no. I know that the members are not paid enough but I think \$1,000 a year would be too much. There have been bills introduced that will cost the taxpayers of the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in the way of increase of salaries and the creation of new offices. There is being built up one of the greatest political machines in the history of any state, and if the republicans will get together as they ought to there is no reason why this state cannot be wrested from the hands of the democrats at the next election.

There has been an attempt to cripple the initiative and referendum by raising the per cent of signatures to the petition and providing that the petition shall be filed with the county court for it to pass on the genuineness of the signatures. My opinion is that we should not deprive the people of the right to say what they want by direct legislation. If they do not want the initiative and referendum then let them repeal it, but do not make it inactive by amending it.

There was a fight in the lobby of the house this week between Mr. Cornelius of DeKalb county and a single taxer by the name of McCleery. McCleery said the fool farmers in the legislature did not have sense enough to vote intelligently on the question of the initiative and referendum. Cornelius resented the remark and slapped McCleery.

I think there is going to be some good road and school laws passed this session. The session is drawing to a close and we will all be anxious to go home when it is over.

H. M. BLUNK.

There is plenty of room in this county for good, honest people who are willing to work for what they get, and who want to make a home for themselves. Land will never be any cheaper here nor anywhere else.

There must soon be some provision made for an outlet to the railroad for the people of this part of the county, and we can't think of any better place to try out the benefits of a first class road than one from the county seat to the railroad.

The road and bridge problem is going to be something one of these days that will not take a back seat for anything else, and the sooner provision is made in the way of a sufficient tax levy to have the coin on hand the easier it will be to handle when the time arrives.

We believe Taney county can "point with pride" to the present county court as having accomplished what has for so long a time been declared an impossibility—getting money enough ahead to make a start on some of the new improvements needed by the county.

A man made the prediction here the other day that there would be more visitors to this town during the coming summer than had ever been here before in the history of the town. Let 'em come. We'll show 'em a good time and maybe some of them will make their homes here. That's what we want.

We can't just exactly figure out why a man thinks he must misrepresent things in order to induce settlement of people in any country, but particularly we can't see why it is necessary in this country. We have as fine a climate, as fine water, as good soil and as great opportunities for building up as any section of the Ozarks. It is true that other sections are ahead of us in many ways, but they have no greater natural advantages and their being ahead is simply the result of a steady, all-work-together system that has accomplished that result. There is nothing to this thing of pitting one part of a country against another.

HOT TIMES AHEAD IN STATE POLITICS.

Prohibition May Again Become An Absorbing Issue.

Folk for the Senate Against Stone—Public Utilities Board Assured—Big Measures Disposed of by the Legislature Soon to Adjourn.

Jefferson City, March 10.—This week and next will end the regular session of the Forty-seventh general assembly. The seventy day period expires on Tuesday of next week, when the per diem of five dollars a day for senators and members will cease. After that day their pay will be but one dollar a day. Not many of them will care to prolong their stay under such pay—in fact few of them can afford to do so. So the main business of the session will be hurried to completion this week. Already the big measures have been disposed of. The act creating a board of five commissioners to regulate the service and rates of railroad, street railway and other transportation companies, of gas, electric and water companies, of telephone, telegraph and express companies and of companies engaged in other public service business has been enacted, and a companion bill abolishing the board of railroad and warehouse commissioners (elected by the people) and creating the office of warehouse and grain commissioner has been put through, so that two of the railroad and warehouse commissioners—John A. Knott, democrat, and Frank A. Wightman, republican—may be placed on the public service commission and James T. Bradshaw, the third commissioner, elected last year, may be made warehouse and grain commissioner.

The measure of most importance from the political standpoint is, strange to say, nonpartisan. It is the county unit local option bill passed in the senate last week. It had previously passed the house by a large majority. It was generally believed that the senate would defeat it, but it had strength in that body to override an unfavorable committee report and to get on the calendar for immediate consideration. In fact, on final roll call, it had two more votes than its friends had claimed. To pass a bill 18 votes are required. This hotly contested bill got 20 votes, and went to the hands of the governor strong enough to demand the most considerate treatment as the product of the large majority of members and senators whose votes put it through. The Anti-Saloon League has been fighting for this legislation for more than ten years. Last year it was made an issue in the campaign for membership in the legislature. Some very strong men who would not stand for it went down in defeat. Quite a number of members and senators who do not personally approve it voted for it at the request of their constituents. Its enactment opens up again the prohibition issue as it is virtually a prohibition measure. It makes possible a vote on local prohibition in every county in the state as it compels the cities and towns to vote with the country precincts on the question "for the sale of intoxicating liquors" or "against the sale of intoxicating liquors." An affirmative majority in a county where liquor is sold only in cities of 2500 population or more will make the entire county wet, while a majority against the sale of liquor will make both county and cities dry. Under the old law a county could be voted dry and a city containing more than 2500 population could vote separately and be wet or dry as the voters preferred. If, as is now proposed, the vote submit this bill to the vote of the entire state, under the referendum, the vote of St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph and other wet centers and the vote of the fifteen

counties classed as overwhelmingly wet will be pitted against the vote of about 90 dry counties and the prohibition question will again play a big part in a general state election—and will play "Hobb" with political plans. The referendum has never yet been used in Missouri. It can be invoked the same as the initiative. If this bill is referred to the people and a majority of the voters voting on the question vote against it it will never get into the statutes.

Former Governor Folk will be a candidate for United States senator against Senator Stone. If the county unit bill is put before the people Stone will necessarily be arrayed against it and Folk will have to stand for it, else another democratic aspirant will get the following of the "dry" democrats. So this measure must necessarily play a big part in the politics of 1914 if it be subjected to popular vote.

The home rule bills for St. Louis were finally enacted last Thursday. The "dry" leaders threaten to refer them to a vote of the people of the state at the next election if the county unit bill is referred.

Missouri now has but two republicans in congress.

Senator LaFollette is again making a noise in the senate like a loyal republican.

The special session of congress will begin April 1 but the Lord only knows when it will quit.

The Kansas City Star is trying to make a big man of Governor Major. It is an impossible task, however.

Former President Taft is basking in the sunshine of Georgia far and forever away from the perplexities of the White House.

Wilson, as a cabinet maker, is entitled to a journeyman's card. He had to use some unfinished lumber in his first big job.

Major is mad at Senator Reed but it is too early to say what he will do to him. He also finds a smooth old Stone in his way.

Now if Champ Clark can keep Billy Bryan from raising a big issue before the new congress assembles he will be re-elected speaker.

President Wilson's inaugural address was full of glittering generalities but had no handle practical public men can take hold on.

Well, we have a republican minority in both houses of congress strong enough to make the democrats go slow and talk too much.

The Webb law may be unconstitutional but it will keep many "wet" citizens "dry" till the supreme court determines the mooted question.

The fellow who took the felony clause out of the St. Louis primary law is in no danger. The men who engineered the trick followed a long established practice among democratic law makers.

Farmers who bought automobiles when times were good are now using the motors to grind feed and shell corn. They will have to make every wheel turn to good advantage while democrats run the national government.

Norvell, the "big business" man who wants the democratic nomination for mayor, made a round of the saloons the first thing and openly assured an audience of "the best citizens" that he found them popular and respectable—that they are poor men's clubs. He also gave democratic ward workers a clean bill of health. Now, if the saloons and ward workers reciprocate, Norvell may be the nominee of the democrats for mayor of St. Louis and the next democratic nominee for governor of Missouri. That's the game.

SIXTEEN GOLDEN YEARS.

Sixteen years ago McKinley succeeded Cleveland as president of the United States after having defeated William J. Bryan, the nominee of the democrats, in a campaign in which the tariff and the currency were the chief issues. The democrats had demoralized the protective tariff system, and the currency system had been so weakened by democratic legislation and democratic contentions that money was in hiding, credits were limited and financial depression prevailed. Industrial pursuits were unprofitable and unpromising. Wages were low, employment limited and mechanics, artisans and laborers were everywhere idle and impoverished. A period of "hard times" had made the people solicitous about the future, had bankrupted many good business men, ruined banks, discouraged the farmers and disheartened wage earners.

Bryan proposed an unlimited silver currency system and a tariff for revenue only as the permanent policy of the government. McKinley had proposed the gold standard for our currency and high tariff protection for our industries. The people approved the propositions of McKinley in November, 1896, and before he was inaugurated in March, 1897, the country, relieved of the dread and fear of four more years of government by the democratic party, had become more prosperous and business had resumed normal conditions. From that day to the day when a democrat was elected president in November, 1912, the country enjoyed prosperous business, industrial and agricultural conditions never before experienced by any nation on earth.

During that period of sixteen years towns sprang up as if by magic, cities grew in population, in commerce and in wealth wonderfully; farm lands doubled and trebled in value; banks flourished, great fortunes were created; great industries were established and extended; railroads were built, extended and splendidly equipped, and other transportation facilities were organized and successfully operated. Territories became states; waste lands became productive farms; idle lands were put to the plow; no men or women capable of earning wages were left unemployed. Prosperity abounded!

During that period the republican government established a sound currency, a practical and effective protective tariff system; fought a great war for human rights and liberty of peoples long oppressed; built a canal between the oceans; established a postal savings system; established a parcel post system, and accomplished many other things the people desired. It is a glorious record. One can hardly realize how the country has advanced since March 4, 1897. No such advancement was ever made by any nation in a like period.

But the iconoclastic hand has been extended to touch with destructive effect the powerful and potent political organization that made all these things possible. A frenzy of political doubt and passion at last destroyed the cohesive force that defeated the democracy four times in succession and now the party of free trade, free silver, free follies and freedom from the restraints of wise statesmanship is again in control of the government. In behalf of the millions who otherwise must suffer we hope for better things from democratic leaders than the country has heretofore received at their hands; but in the light of the past that hope is weak and the fear of disaster is irrefragable.

President Wilson's Task.

It is a most difficult and responsible task to direct the affairs of our government as its chief executive. That task is greatly increased for the new president because he must hold in check a political party naturally imprudent and never submissive to good leadership,

however wise. President Wilson will soon confront more unfriendly critics within his own party than he will find in other parties. When the democratic donkey is not kicking he is braying. The only way to keep him quiet is to keep him eating. When the provender runs out he will bray at all in front of him and kick at all behind him.

Short Courses are Popular.

During the past winter 308 students attended the various short courses given by the Missouri College of Agriculture. These students came from 87 counties in Missouri and from five other states. They were enrolled in the Two Year Winter Course, in the Short Course for Women, the Short Course in Dairying, and the Special Poultry course. The last three courses are new, and the attendance was relatively small.

The first Short Course in Agriculture at the Missouri College was offered 17 years ago. In this period of time 1380 students, representing practically every county in the state, have attended some of these courses.

In 1909 the Two Year Winter Course, consisting of two winters of 14 weeks each, was organized. Each winter is divided into two terms of seven weeks, and each term is a unit by itself. Students who complete the work of all four terms are given a certificate. One of the most satisfactory indications of progress in this course is the fact that each year a larger number of students return to complete the course and receive certificates. In the spring of 1911 seven students completed the course. At the close of the present session 33 students will receive certificates of graduation.

Another Boost for Poultry.

The poultry department at the University of Missouri has been informed that the Food Research Laboratory of the Bureau of Chemistry heretofore located at Nashville, Tennessee and under the direction of Dr. Mary E. Pennington and Prof. H. C. Pierce, is to be removed to Sedalia, Missouri. The work of this laboratory consists of studying the marketing of eggs and poultry from the producer to the consumer.

There is a great need of such work in Missouri. A conservative estimate places the loss in eggs during a single year at \$3,000,000. A large percentage of this loss is borne by the farmer and the loss is due to the average low quality of eggs and the consequent low prices.

One of the first steps will be to organize the dealers in the state to buy eggs on a quality basis. The elimination of bad eggs at the receiving station, where it has been tried in this state, results in an increase in the price of eggs of three cents per dozen. This means that the producer of poor eggs pays the penalty and the producer of good eggs reaps the reward. It is only on this basis that the egg industry in Missouri can approach its possibilities and Missouri is to be congratulated on having the laboratory within its boundaries.

The state salary list grows bigger every time the democratic caucus lines up recalcitrant members and senators.

But then, we Missourians live in the best state in the Union, in the society of the best people on earth and are fed on the best food nature supplies. Most of our women are good and true, many of them are beautiful and some of them are queens. Our men are as noble, courageous and brotherly as the men of any land. Our lands are productive, our factories prosperous, our mines rich, our orchards and vineyards bear glorious fruit, our cities are populous and progressive, our towns thrive, our waters are abundant and good to drink and our politicians are fighters from daybreak till sundown—and then some. Hurrah for Grand Old Missouri.